

Congressional Relations
OLC #77-1987

17 May 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with the Director of Central Intelligence on Congressional Relations

1. On 17 May Messrs. Don Gregg and [REDACTED] greeted the DCI as he entered the building. He asked "What are you fellows up to?" We explained that we were turning over in our minds possible tactics for improving the CIA relationship with members of Congress, both the House and the Senate, by communicating to them the value of an interest in the Agency other than an adversary one. We noted that there is a great deal the CIA can do for Congress and that Congress should be aware of the advantages that a more substantive relationship with the CIA offers.

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2. The Director said that he has been trying to make this point with various members of Congress and he noted that he has offered to brief three separate committees, not involved in intelligence management or oversight, but there has been no response. His offer was made two months ago. He asked how we might accomplish this goal. We said that it is a matter of identifying those in Congress who deal with issues related to foreign affairs and persuading them that their decision making would be facilitated by a better understanding of CIA's role and assets as a foreign affairs agency. We noted that Senator Inouye is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as well as the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and that Senator Inouye might be persuaded to articulate to Congress on this point. It was noted that if Senator Inouye would be our advocate it would enhance our relations and would remove suspicions that might develop if the Agency tried to be its own spokesman.

3. The Director said he is a salesman looking for consumers. He then asked [REDACTED] to work up a commentary on this for him.

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